The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Cunning is the art of concealing our own defects.—Hazlitt.

NON-PARTISANSHIP GROWS IN AMERICA

The breakdown of party lines is a feature of this campaign. At no time in more than a century of our country's history has non-partisanship been so pronounced.

This collapse is not discussed by party workers and privilege seekers, who long for the old days of party hate, mob-caucus rule and convention slates.

The change is of especial interest to organized workers, who for years stood alone in urging a policy that is now unchallenged by thinking citizens.

Campaigns today revolve around individuals. Party enthusiasm, party discipline and party faith are at their lowest ebb.

This changed sentiment is noted in the trade unions, where the labor party issue is no longer discussed. The question is not even raised as an academic proposition.

No student of conditions will say it is possible to form an effective political party when every spiritual element necessary for party success is missing.

Politicians and beneficiaries of the party system talk of the need for a political party "that is impossible to the people," but these men forget that they live in the United States and not in Europe.

Political parties across the water are spokesmen either for the king, who rules in theory, if not in fact, or they are the government—the states.

In this country the people are spokesmen for themselves. To them government is their creature—not their superior.

Strong political parties in Europe are logical because the people retain a centuries'-old background that is unknown in America.

The American is suspicious of government when in the hands of a strong political party. In Europe the citizen wants a strong political party to "do things." In America the citizen wants to "do things" himself.

Direct legislation, the primary system and the election of United States Senators by the people, instead of by state legislatures, are all proofs that the American is taking greater power unto himself.

He is imbued with the Jeffersonian theory that the least governed are the best governed. Hence his abandonment of partyism and his shifting to individuals.

The non-partisan theory, so stoutly urged by the A. F. of L., since its inception, is distinctly American.

The founders of this government feared political parties. Washington warned against their menace. They were accorded no place in our governmental system, although they fastened themselves on the country while the people were developing a democratic ideal.

This historic fact, together with the present drift from parties, is ignored by men who cling to the European ideal, and who call themselves progressive.

British Unions Favor Peace Plan; Communists, As Usual, Urge War

Swansea, Wales, Sept. 15.—The annual convention of the British Trades Union Congress approved its general council's indorsement of conciliation and mediation with employers.

The vote, based on membership of affiliated unions, was 3,075,000 to 366,000.

The plan originated with the unions, and meetings have been held the past year with two employers' organizations, representing 95 per cent of Britain's industry. The plan is called "Mondism," because the chairman of the meetings is Sir Alfred Mond, British capitalist, who is now Lord Melchett.

A. J. Cook, secretary of the Miners' Federation, led the fight against "Mondism." He fainted during an impassioned speech on the convention floor.

W. H. Citrine, secretary of the British Trade Union Congress, opened debate for the plan. He said it was a logical and common sense step, and was in line with world development of trade unionism. He reminded the delegates that at the very beginning of the negotiations it had been definitely stipulated that there would be no interference with labor's right to suspend work.

It was further specifically declared by the joint conference that full recognition should only be given to bona fide trade unions and that no worker should be victimized because of trade union activity.

Communists were debarred from the convention hall but this element waged a fight against the resolution from the outside. They call the new policy "class collaboration."

BRITISH EMPLOYERS FACE FACTS

Employers in Great Britain, representing 95 per cent of production in that country, will recognize unions affiliated to the British Trades Union Congress.

A joint committee, representing the unions and employers, declare that "it is definitely in the interests of all concerned in industry that full recognition" should be given legitimate unions.

Victimization is declared to be an important cause of friction and unrest and the desirability of abandoning this policy is urged.

A National Industrial Council will be formed to investigate disputes and problems. This council will hold regular meetings every three months "for general consultation on the widest questions concerning industry and industrial progress."

The employers make no mention of such hackneyed phrases as "independent workmen." They face facts. They realize this is an age of organization.

It is as certain as the tides that this system will eventually be accepted by American employers who now oppose trade unions.

The new day can be hastened as the workers organize.

"REDS" AID REACTION IN ANTI-UNION FIGHT

Kenosha, Wis., Sept. 15.—Hosiery workers on strike against the Allen-A Company of this city charge that Communists are aiding that concern to install a speed-up system and destroy the union. The general strike committee says:

"We have a few comic opera revolutionists in Kenosha, representatives of the Communist party. These volunteer Pied Pipers are giving aid and comfort to the Allen-A Company by attacking our officials, who urge arbitration and a co-operative program. These points are exactly what the company is most set against. The Communists want to engage us in perpetual warfare with the manufacturers.

"The Allen-A Company, however, also wants perpetual warfare. It has rejected arbitration and cooperation. It has attempted to crush our legitimate organization.

"In other words, the Allen-A Company, by its reactionary attitude, breeds Communists. These comic opera revolutionists, by their part, return the compliment by attacking leadership of our union."

MILLIONS PAID LOW WAGES; WEEKLY AVERAGE IS $23.50

Figures compiled by the Department of Labor, at the request of Senator Brookhart, show that less than 9,000,000 workers employed in manufacturing in this country receive $11,000,000,000 in wages. This is an average of $1,222 per year, or $23.50 a week.

Washington, Sept. 15.—"High" wages is a fiction and Congress has power to prevent extortion from the people, said Senator Brookhart in announcing his intention of presenting a bill in the next Congress to regulate profits of industries that are protected by government.

"When the Federal Government extends protection to an industry," said Mr. Brookhart, "it has the fundamental right to regulate that industry's profits. The time has arrived when that idea can no longer be ignored."

Senator Brookhart quoted government figures to prove his claim "that labor is in no wise getting its fair share in our industrial system."

"For the past eight years," he said, "there has been a total of about $40,000,000,000 of capital invested in manufacturing in the United States. There are then 9,000,000 workers in all these factories. The gross production has totaled about $60,000,000,000 a year.

"It has been pertinently urged that the reason for this high value of manufactured products is due to the high wages of labor. I determined to know the facts in this matter and I recently asked the Department of Labor to add up the wages of all these nine millions of workers, and to my astonishment I learned that they only got $11,000,000,000. However, it would not be fair to pass this comparison without a study of the raw material in manufacture. Of this $60,000,000,000 only about $25,000,000,000 of new value was added by the process of manufacture. The balance is the raw material bill. However, there are huge profits in the raw material bill.

"Since only $11,000,000,000 of this new value goes in wages, there is still $14,000,000,000 left for other items charged to $40,000,000,000 of capital.

"Therefore, it is plain that labor is in no wise getting its fair share in our industrial system."

TARIFF ON TEXTILES DOESN'T AID LABOR

New York, Sept. 15.—A call to organize southern non-union textile workers and condemnation of tariff rates on textiles featured a report by Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers, at the opening of their annual convention.

"There is not a word of defense we can say for the textile tariff," said Mr. McMahon. "Claims of politicians that the high tariff is a guarantee of steady work at high wages is untrue. The public is being exploited while these claims are made. In some instances, as in cotton, worsted and silk workers' wages are lower than before the World War."

Organization of southern textile workers will be a hard, but not an impossible task, said Mr. McMahon. Long hours, low wages and poor conditions in this section are factors in favor of success.

Mr. McMahon declared that the labor injunction is a criminal use of the judicial power." He expressed the hope that the various textile unions will merge with the legitimate trade union in this industry. He suggested that officials of the union be sent into the south to confer with textile manufacturers concerning the multiple loom system and other efficiency devices whereby fewer workers turn out increased production.

"The additional profits accruing to the employer under this system should not go wholly to him, but should be distributed among the employes," said Mr. McMahon.

POST WORKERS ANNOY WHEN THEY WANT MORE

Washington, Sept. 15.—"We would have real economy if the Post Office Department could be operated without postal employes," says Thomas F. Flaherty, editor of the Union Postal Clerk.

The labor editor is sarcastic over the President's implication that these employes are responsible for the postal deficit because they insisted on extra pay for night work.

"It is very apparent the President has never quite forgiven the postal workers for not accepting his vetoes of their remedial legislation as the final judgment," said Mr. Flaherty. "Our successful appeals to Congress obviously are distasteful to Mr. Coolidge. But he stands very much alone. The people and Congress have a broader view of the postal service than has our President.

"Naturally the postal worker is puzzled to find himself singled out for attack. He is blamed for a $100,000,000 deficit when the night work pay increase costs less than one-sixteenth of that amount. The railroads and the big publishers escape a like odium.

"The postal workers are nuisances whose clamoring to Congress result in upsetting budgets and creating deficits. If only some way could be found to run the service without them! Then we would have real economy."

TEXTILE STRIKERS APPEAL TO GOVERNOR

Boston, Sept. 15.—A delegation of New Bedford textile strikers asked Governor Fuller to attempt to mediate the long work suspension of these employes, who are resisting wage reductions. The strikers told the governor if he had a conference with former United States Senator Butler a power among the mill owners, and impressed him, the story would use his influence with the cotton manufacturers to rescind the 10 per cent cut without any strings tied to it and with no speed up."

The governor was informed that competent management would make the mills efficient. Many of the managers, the strikers said, got their jobs because they are relatives of "this or that person" and they are uninformed of their duties.

IDLE IN MINNEAPOLIS IGNORED BY UNION FOES

Washington, Sept. 15.—The Citizen's Alliance of Minneapolis is attempting to flood that city with building craftsmen, although unemployment is widespread, according to information received by William Green, president A. F. of L., from officials of the Minneapolis Building Trades Council.

The anti-unionists are advertising throughout the country that there is much employment and good working conditions there.

"We have thousands of men walking the streets, and this is considered our best time of the year," the Minneapolis unionists say. They declare that wages are poor and working conditions are worse.

BARBERS' OFFICIAL DIES

Denver, Sept. 15.—John E. Connelly, vice president Journeymen Barbers' International Union, died at a local hospital, following an attack of pneumonia. He was a member of the Barbers' Union for more than a quarter of a century. In 1913 he was appointed on the State Board of Barber Examiners.

U. S. SHIP SALE OPPOSED BY FEDERAL LAWMAKER

Washington, Sept. 15.—If the government disposes of its merchant ships "there is grave danger that foreign influences will acquire these lines from the parties purchasing them from the government," said Congressman Abernathy, member of the House Committee on Merchant Marine.

Mr. Abernathy said the Shipping Board should not hastily dispose of these steamship lines, but should establish additional lines to carry out the purposes of the merchant marine act of 1928.

"I believe it would be suicidal," he said, "for the Shipping Board to dispose of these lines between the sessions of Congress. I favor the government proceeding very slowly in the matter of letting its lines go into the hands of private enterprise until successful operation is assured."

The North Carolina lawmaker declared that southern ports have been neglected by the Shipping Board. This sentiment has been expressed by other southern Congressmen who fear that if the government's vessels are sold they will not only fall into foreign hands but marine shipping in this country will be concentrated in New York City.

CASTE SYSTEM IN LABOR LINKED WITH COMMUNISM

Boston, Sept. 15.—Communism and the caste system in labor—high pay on one hand and low wages on the other—were scored by William J. Bowen, president Bricklayers', Masons' and Plasterers' International Union of America, at the opening of its convention here.

In 10 years the union has paid more than $10,500,000 in aged, infirm and mortuary benefits. The union has $3,865,000 in its treasury, compared to $1,837 when Mr. Bowen was elected first vice president in 1901. Since then the union has gained 80,000 members.

CHAIN STORES TO EXPAND

New York, Sept. 15.—Chain cigar stores are expanding into drugs and kindred lines of quick turnover small merchandise, according to W. T. Doezy, vice president United Cigar Stores Company.

WHY MAN POWER BREAKS

The "breakdown of man power" is responsible for wrecks and loss of life on the New York Interborough Rapid Transit system, according to investigators.

These employes work long hours for wages that are set by a company-controlled "union." The "yellow dog" must be accepted by every worker.

If an employe hints that a trade union would relieve conditions he is reported by company spies, and officials of the "union" insist that he be discharged.

Frank Hedley, president of the Interborough, complies. If he does not face a strike of his company "union" employes, he says. And this without a smile.

The speeding up, long hours, low wages and a denial of elemental rights have shattered the workers' morale.

The morale of passengers is likewise shattered, as it is shown that between August 24 and September 6 the Interborough carried 1,036,923 fewer passengers than in the corresponding period a year ago.

Mr. Hedley is paying a costly price for running (?) "his" business.

LABOR DAY FOUNDER HONORED IN CAMDEN

Camden, N. J., Sept. 15.—More than 200 trade unionists gathered at the grave of Peter J. McGuire near this city to honor the father of Labor Day.

McGuire introduced a resolution in the New York central body in 1882 which declared that the first Monday in September should be considered Labor Day. The plan was adopted by the A. F. of L. in 1884.

McGuire lived in this city the greater part of his life. He was one of the founders of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, and served as secretary-treasurer of that organization. He also served as vice president of the A. F. of L. He died in 1902.

"REDS" ARE ANTI-UNION

New York, Sept. 15.—Communists have organized a "red" union of cloak makers and are offering to work two hours a week more than the union week and forego extra pay for overtime.

This information is being quietly passed to employers, while the "reds" publicly denounce trade union officials as "reactionary."

JAMES M. LYNCH VERY ILL

Syracuse, N. Y., Sept. 15.—James M. Lynch, former president International Typographical Union, is ill here with heart disease and removed to a local hospital. He collapsed in the office of his physician. He suffered an illness last year and since then has been under medical treatment.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Herrin, Ill., Sept. 15.—The annual convention of the State Federation of Labor will be held here beginning November 8.

FIRE APPARATUS FIRM SHRINKS AT PUBLICITY

Elmira, N. Y., Sept. 15.—The American-La France and Foamite Corporation, manufacturers of fire fighting apparatus, feels the effect of wide publicity given its attack on union machinists, molders and sheet metal workers.

The corporation declared for individual bargaining and has set up a company "union."

The concern is now attempting to offset the unionists' publicity by circulars in which it is stated that "the strike is over." Another circular states that "a union man visited this plant; that he found some machinists on a strike, but he also learned that the strike was illegal and that the company is fair to organized labor."

The International Association of Machinists is paying benefits to the 300 victimized machinists, and municipalities are asked to keep in mind the anti-union attitude of the La France Corporation and its strike-breaking, incompetent employes, when the purchase of fire apparatus is considered.

GOMPERS IS HONORED BY NEW YORK UNIONS

New York, Sept. 15.—A floral wreath was placed on the grave of the late Samuel Gompers, at Sleepy Hollow, on Labor Day Sunday by a committee representing the Central Trades and Labor Council of this city and vicinity.

The union delegation included John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L.; John J. Mulholland, vice president, and James C. Quinn, secretary-treasurer of the central body

TO VOTE ON MINERS' PACT

Springfield, Ill., Sept. 15.—Officers of Illinois district, United Mine Workers, urge these workers to ratify a wage agreement that has been negotiated with employers.

The agreement is for four years and provides for 91 cents a ton for tonnage workers and $10.10 for day workers. This is less than the Jacksonville agreement.

Union officials point out that the organized fields are confronted by oil and "white-coal" competition, while in Kentucky, West Virginia, Alabama and Tennessee are working under non-union conditions with wages in control of these operators.

STAGE EMPLOYES WIN

New York, Sept. 15.—A new wage agreement has been signed by stage employes and theatrical managers after three-weeks' negotiations.

Stage hands known as "grips" will receive $6.75 a performance, an increase of 75 cents. Property men, electricians and carpenters will receive $82.50 weekly, and their assistants $72.50, a weekly advance of $7.50.

WHY NOT GREATER BOSTON?

Greater Boston in the automatic yard.

It is expected that the huge machine will net the railroad $800,000 a year. This means that in five years the system will pay for itself. Thereafter, there will be no charges except upkeep. All other income will be profit.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 15.—Reports to the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce from railroads using automatic switching devices indicate that this system is satisfactory, and its use is becoming more extensive.

Under the new system cars are switched and trains are made up without man power. The equipment permits a railroad to dispense with switch tenders, car riders, car inspectors and other employes.

Gravity plays a major part in operation of the device. Freight cars are sent over a hump. Rolling down the decline, and by means of electric power and direction are controlled from centrally located towers.

Freight Trains Made Up By One Man; Giant Mechanism Displaces All Labor

Boston, Sept. 15.—The Boston & Maine Railroad has perfected its $4,000,000 freight-handling machine, which will juggle 1,000,000 freight cars every year with no brakeman riding on the cars and no switchman operating switches.

These workers are swept into the street by an apparatus that is operated by one man in a tower and which handles freight cars with a capacity of 100,000 pounds and over as easily as a belt conveyer handles a cake of soap.

The new system covers 470 acres and has 225 miles of track. Freight cars move at the rate of one every 10 seconds over a hump artificially graded so that each uncoupled car rolls down by gravity toward a line of classification tracks and the correct switch for each car is thrown at the right moment by a remote electrical control in a tower overlooking the yards.

Each car is slowed down to any desired degree by a thin film of oil softly rolls into place in its train by electro-pneumatic retarders along the track, under the car. At the same time, new, quick grips the flanges of the wheels as they pass through huge steel jaws.

Loud speakers reaching every part of the yard enables changes in direction of any car up to the last moment. Flood lights make the night as bright as day and in winter hot oil will be forced in the journal boxes of freight cars to limber them up.

The railroads concentrate all the business of its nine yards around

UNIONISTS' HOME AIDED BY EMPLOYERS

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Sept. 15.—Two contributions, of $100,000 and $50,000 are assured the Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union for the establishment here of a widows' and orphans' colony.

The $5,000 contribution was made by the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers. The $100,000 fund was contributed by Theodore T. Ellis, president of the New England Paper Supply.

The pressmen voted in their recent convention to raise $1,500,000 to establish the colony. This will be another unit to their Pressmen's Home and their technical education department.

LONG WORKING HOURS BLAMED FOR WRECKS

New York, Sept. 15.—Bad working conditions on the lines of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company is responsible for numerous wrecks on that system, said Joseph P. Ryan, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council, in a speech to business men in this city. One of the company's recent wrecks killed 15 passengers and injured more than 100.

"The cause of these accidents, according to investigators, is the failure of man power," said Mr. Ryan. "How can subway workers be expected to be mentally and physically on their toes when they are paid low wages and work long hours?

"When these workers attempted to organize, the Interborough broke its promise, secured an injunction and forced the men to join its company 'union' and sign a 'yellow dog.'"

U. S. CAPITAL ABROAD

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 15.—American capital is investing in Europe, while American labor is idle, said Matthew Woll, A. F. of L. vice president, at the State Federation of Labor convention.

PARTISANS LIKE BRANDED STEERS; BOTH ARE OWNED, SAYS SENATOR

Duluth, Sept. 15.—"The bootlegger and the divekeeper are less harmful to the progress of our nation than the citizen who votes the straight ticket and plays partisan politics," said Senator George Norris in a Labor Day speech in this city. He said steers are branded to prove ownership, but men should not be branded as partisans.

The Nebraska veteran statesman made a vigorous plea for non-partisan politics not only in this campaign, "but for all times." Only by this method, he said, can there be a complete investigation of the power trust, abolition of life-long terms in judicial offices and a correction of the labor injunction evil.

"There is nothing sacred about a political party," said the Nebraska lawmaker. "The party is only an instrument of politicians and the man who allows the party to direct his vote above his conviction will destroy democracy. The right to vote is a sacred vote. We must guard it with honor, for any nation in east without perfect freedom is worse than no vote at all.

"We brand steers in Nebraska to show ownership. Don't be branded as a partisan in politics. It means that you are owned and controlled by a single group."

Senator Norris declared that no man should be allowed away over a public office during his lifetime. "It is the weakness of humanity to continually try and reach out for greater power and even in judiciary posts men are apt to forget those who toil."

Senator Norris attacked the propaganda of the power trust. "I do not object," he concluded, "to a trust engaging in lodge work or in spread propaganda, but I do object to that kind of activity when it is done under false pretenses."

OLD UNIONIST DEAD

Belleville, Ill., Sept. 15.—Impressive funeral services marked the passing of John Green, 85-year-old miner, who was buried here. He dug coal in Illinois as early as 1849 and was a pioneer in the Miners' Union.

MUSICIANS' STRIKE ENDS; EQUITY JUDGE IGNORED

Chicago, Sept. 15.—The Musicians' Union and picture theater managers adjusted differences and this short strike has ended.

Federal Judge Wilkerson, of shop men's injunction fame, ordered the musicians not to cease work without the consent of their employers.

The musicians ignored the order and darkened scores of theaters.

The workers' independent attitude angered the injunction judge in an embarrassing position and he gladly complied with the managers' request that his order be withdrawn.

MOVIE OPERATORS GAIN

Detroit, Sept. 15.—Substantial wage raises and a two-year contract have been secured by movie picture operators.

INSURANCE ADVOCATED TO AID UNEMPLOYED

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 15.—The principle of insurance against unemployment, supported by compulsory contributions from the state, employers and employes, has been accepted by a committee appointed by the Dominion House of Commons.

This decision followed hearings at which representatives of organized labor, employers and public welfare groups testified.

A "the responsibility for legislation on unemployment insurance," the committee reported, "rests with each province, but it is within the power of Parliament to grant subsidies to provinces which adopt such legislation; and as the conditions of unemployment vary so greatly between the different provinces, it was stated to be very desirable for the success of any plan of unemployment insurance that several of the provinces should be willing to act simultaneously."

The committee recommended that the matter be referred to the provinces, with a view to finding out which would be prepared to take up the question.

England's unemployment insurance is based on contribution by employers, employed and the state. Contributions by the latter is defended on the theory that such aid reduces poor relief which is inherent in the state.

SILVER AGE OBSERVED BY UNION TEAMSTERS

Cincinnati, Sept. 15.—Arrangements are complete for a 25th anniversary ball and banquet in this city on October 1 to celebrate the silver anniversary of the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Every section of this union's jurisdiction will be represented and the event will draw a large crowd of the leading of these unionists in the history of the Brotherhood.

Daniel J. Tobin has served as chief executive of the Brotherhood for more than 20 years. In that period the union has grown to one of the powerful units of the A. F. of L. and has secured wages and working conditions that are envied and contended by a single group."

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Radio Industry Poor Substitute For Automatic Machine Victim

Washington, Sept. 15.—The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics shatters the consoling claim that the radio industry will be a factor in filling the unemployed gap that is caused by automatic machinery displacing skilled labor.

The bureau's study of the radio industry reveals pauper wage standards with idleness several months in the year. The highest paid workers are the comparatively few male tool and die makers, whose wages for this exceptionally skilled work ranges around $41-$44 a week. Low-wage female labor predominates in other departments of this industry, that is highly seasonal.

In the manufacture of receiving sets average and weekly earnings range from $18.94 for female packers and wrappers to $44.06 for male tool and die makers, the average for all employes being $23.25.

In the making of loud speakers, the average actual earnings in one week range from $12.93 for female repairers to $41.85 for male tool makers, the average for all employes, $22.87.

In the manufacture of tubes, the average actual earnings in one week ranged from $14.37 for female filament testers to $28.10 for male electrical testers, the average for all employes being $20.36.

Agents of the bureau visited plants located in eight states—Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

"The radio manufacturing industry," the bureau reports, "is quite seasonal, as there are several months in the year in which very little work is done. In the dull months practically all of the establishments retain only their technical force (busy in designing improvements) and a few key men."

It was reported that one establishment, to secure efficiency, gives a vacation of one day per month with pay if the employe is 100 per cent perfect during that period and has not been absent or tardy more than 30 minutes.

COMPENSATION ACT OPERATING IN QUEBEC

Montreal, Quebec, Sept. 15.—The new workmen's compensation act of this province is now in effect.

Employers of seven or more individuals must take out insurance or insure themselves. In the latter event they are licensed. Where an employer fails to secure such license he may be fined in the event of an accident.